

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: D/HA/ORM:HBCUSHING:CML

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215717

FOR AMBASSADOR SCRANTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT CANBERRA 5743 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA
09 AUG 1976

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - THE UNHCR APPEAL FOR FIRST
ASYLUM AND RESETTLEMENT

REF: STATE 194698

1. DCM PASSED SUBSTANCE U.S. RESPONSE TO UNHCR APPEAL TO
ROGERS, HEAD UN SECTION IN DFA AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES SINCE U.S. WITHDRAWAL
FROM VIETNAM. HE ALSO MADE POINTS PARAS 3 AND 4 REFTEL
EMPHASIZING HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS AND FACT SUCH REFUGEES
MAY WELL BE CONSIDERED HIGH QUALITY GIVEN THEIR INTELLIGENCE
AND COURAGE IN ESCAPING.

2. ROGERS SAVHSUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED BY UNHCR PERSONALLY
WITH MINISTER MACKELLAR, MINISTER OF IMMIGARATION, TWO OR
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THREE WEEKS AGO INGENEAL WAY, BUT THAT GOA STILL DID NOT

HAVE TEXT UNHCR'S APEAL OR THE ATTACHED PAPER. FOR HIS INFORMATION WE PROVIDED INFORMAL TEXTS RECONSTRUCTED FROM OTHER TELEGRAMS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. ROGERS SAID WHOLE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP WITH DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND MADE NO PROMISES WHATSOEVER THAT GOA WOULD ACCEPT INDOCHINESE REGUGEES DISCUSSED FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

4. COMMENT: WE INTEND STAY IN TOUCH WITHGOA OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER BUT ARE NOT RPT NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ANY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON THEIR PART. ON OTHER HAND MEMBERS THIS GOVERNMENT WHILE IN OPPOSITION CRITICIZED FORMER LABOR GOVERNMENT FOR ITS NIGGARDLY RECEPTION OF ORIGINAL VIETNAMESE REGUGEES AND MAYBE IF THERE ARE PARTICULAR CASES MERITING AUSTRALIAN RECEPTION FOR RESETTLEMENT THEY WILL DO SOMETHING IF PUSHED HARD. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE PRESSURE SHOULD COME FROM UNHCR RATHER THAN USG. HARGROVE UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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